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REMARKS:In the Specification

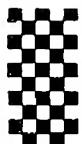
The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended the specification to make the title more descriptive to the invention as claimed after the election of apparatus claims.

The Examiner has also objected to Figures 1 and 2 for not indicating that they refer to prior art. Accordingly, the Applicant has included herewith, replacement sheets for Figures 1 and 2, which indicate that they refer to prior art.

In the Claims

The Examiner has objected to the specification as not providing sufficient support for the element "interface layers", since that term has not been sufficiently defined in the specification and labeled in the Figures. The Applicant has amended claims 23, 26 and 27 to replace the term "interface layers" with the term "CMP resistant layers". The Applicant would like to point out that page 17, lines 9 and 10 use the terms "CMP resistant layer" and "interface layer" interchangeably. Therefore, changing claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 to recite a "CMP resistant layer" rather than an "interface layer" is not intended to narrow the scope of the claims. Support for the CMP resistant layers as an element of the claims can be found, for example, on page 17 lines 9-18 and on page 18 lines 19-22. The CMP resistant layer is identified as element 2102 on Figure 22.

Therefore, the claims as amended clearly set forth the invention and are well supported by the specification. The Applicant sincerely believes that the invention as



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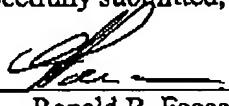
ZILKA-KOTAB, PC

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defined by the amended claims is now in condition for allowance. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2587 (Order No. HJS920030277US1).

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Date: 8/27/2006

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